

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

All the claims have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 7-22, and are supported by the original claims. Note that the term “essentially” before --comprising-- has been omitted, since any component that is positively recited is necessarily essential.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 7-22 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 11-060835 (JP '835), is respectfully traversed. The present claims are all now drawn to the embodiments of original Claims 5 and 6, i.e., a molded article obtained by crosslinking **after** molding, and laminates comprising same. JP '835 discloses a propylene-based resin composition comprising a crosslinked block copolymer and a propylene resin, wherein the block copolymer is a specified, aromatic vinyl/hydrogenated diene block copolymer. However, in JP '835, crosslinking is carried out **before** molding. The newly-submitted Suzuki Declaration demonstrates differences between products obtained according to the presently-claimed invention, such as Example 1 herein, and a comparative experiment, analogous to JP '835, wherein molding is carried out after crosslinking, but otherwise corresponding to Example 1. As the Suzuki Declaration plainly makes clear, the present invention is different from, and superior to, that disclosed by JP '835. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 11-130921 (JP '921), is respectfully traversed. JP '921 discloses a thermoplastic elastomer comprising a vinyl aromatic compound/conjugated diene block copolymer and an ethylene/α-olefin (of four carbons or higher) copolymer, which is formed into a film or sheet. JP '921 is even less relevant than JP '835, discussed *supra*, since JP '921 does not disclose crosslinking, let alone a crosslinked molded article. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '835 in view of EP 0224389 (EP '389), is respectfully traversed. The Examiner relies on EP '389 for a disclosure of a photoinitiator, and concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add a photoinitiator to the composition of JP '835.

In reply, EP '389 is drawn to a composition comprising a specific mixture of two poly(styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) triblock copolymers and a hydrocarbon oil, and a coupling agent, wherein the copolymer-oil-coupling agent composition is crosslinked with electron beam radiation or with UV radiation in the presence of a photoinitiator (page 2, lines 25-40). However, if the photoinitiator were added to the composition of JP '835, the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '921 in view of EP '389, is respectfully traversed. Since JP '921 does not disclose a crosslinking reaction, even if the photoinitiator of EP '389 were added thereto, the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection would now appear to be moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the omission of the Examiner's initials in the box corresponding to document AW on the copy of the Form PTO 1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 23, 2007, attached to the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO 1449 submitted therewith, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication. A copy of the Form PTO 1449 is **submitted herewith** for the Examiner's convenience.

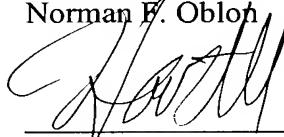
Application No. 10/531,990  
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2007

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 270573US0PCT		SERIAL NO. 10/531,990	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Kenji SUZUKI, et al.					
		FILING DATE April 20, 2005		GROUP 1711			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION		
					YES	NO	
	AO	WO 96/23818	08/08/1996	WIPO			
	AP	EP 0 224 389	06/03/1987	Europe			
	AQ	EP 0 881 258	12/02/1998	Europe			
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						
	AV						
<b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>							
	AW	Derwent Publications, AN 1999-232739, XP-002425853, JP 11-060835, March 5, 1999 (JP 11-060835 previously filed on April 20, 2005)					
	AX						
	AY						
	AZ					<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner						Date Considered	
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							